

Case 3225

***Phymaturus* Gravenhorst, 1837 and *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782 (currently *Phymaturus palluma*; Reptilia, Sauria): proposed conservation of usage of the names by designation of a neotype for *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 75.6 of the Code, is to conserve the widespread existing usage of the generic name *Phymaturus* Gravenhorst, 1837 and the specific name *P. palluma* (Molina, 1782) for a genus and a species of lizard (family LIOLAEMIDAE) from South America by designating the holotype of *Centrura flagellifer* Bell, 1843 as the neotype of *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782. *Phymaturus* and *P. palluma* have been used in this sense since the name *L. palluma* was first misapplied by Gravenhorst in 1837. In this application it is accepted that the valid name for Molina's lizard species will be *Callopiastes maculatus* Gravenhorst, 1837.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; LIOLAEMIDAE; TEIIDAE; *Callopiastes*; *Phymaturus*; *Callopiastes maculatus*; *Phymaturus palluma*; lizard; South America.

1. Molina (1782, p. 217) described a species of lizard (family TEIIDAE) from Chile and named it *Lucerta palluma* after an Araucanian Indian name; *palluma* is a noun in apposition. In the same work (1782, p. 345) and in its second edition (Molina, 1810, p. 189), Molina then used a different spelling for the generic name, referring to the taxon as *Lacerta palluma*. In so doing he acted as the First Reviser and selected *Lacerta palluma* as the valid spelling (see Article 24 of the Code).

2. Gravenhorst (1837, p. 749, pl. 55, fig. 2) placed what he thought was the nominal species *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782 in a new genus which he named (p. 749) *Phymaturus*. *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782 is thus the name of the type species by monotypy of *Phymaturus*. He illustrated a dorsal view of the lizard's head, but had misidentified Molina's taxon. Gravenhorst's lizard belongs to the family LIOLAEMIDAE, whereas Molina's lizard belongs to the family TEIIDAE. Molina's specific name *palluma* has been mistakenly applied to Gravenhorst's taxon for over 100 years.

3. Bell (1843, p. 25, pl. 14, fig. 2) described a new genus and species of lizard with the name *Centrura flagellifer* (family LIOLAEMIDAE). His illustration of the holotype (which is held in The Natural History Museum, London, with accession number BMNH 1946.8.29.84 and examined by R.E. in 1968) is clearly that of the species referred to as *Phymaturus palluma* by Gravenhorst (1837). Boulenger (1885, p. 184) synonymized *Centrura flagellifer* with *Phymaturus palluma* sensu Gravenhorst, 1837.

4. Cei & Lescure (1985, p. 452) showed that the species named *Lacerta palluma* by Molina (1782) is the lizard named *Callopiastes maculatus* by Gravenhorst, 1837 (p. 744; family TEIIDAE). *C. maculatus* is, by monotypy, the type species of *Callopiastes* Gravenhorst, 1837 (p. 743).

5. In an attempt to rectify the situation caused by Gravenhorst's misidentification of *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782, Cei & Lescure (1985, p. 456) used the next available generic name, *Centrura* Bell, 1843 (p. 25) whose type species by monotypy is *Centrura flagellifer* Bell, 1843 as the substitute name for *Phymaturus*.

6. Later, Lescure & Cei (1991, p. 174) decided on a new approach to resolving the confusion created by Gravenhorst's misidentification of *Lacerta palluma* Molina. They suggested that the Commission might use its plenary power to designate *Centrura flagellifer* Bell, 1843 as the type species of *Phymaturus* Gravenhorst, 1837, citing Article 70b of the second (1964) edition of the Code as the justification for this action. However, this proposal was never brought to the Commission.

7. Veloso et al. (2000, p. 258), following Cei & Lescure (1985), stated that the species described by Molina (1782) as *Lacerta palluma* is a senior synonym of the teiid lizard *Callopiastes maculatus* Gravenhorst, 1837. They designated a neotype (which is held in the National Museum of Natural History, Chile, with the accession number 2909) for *Lacerta palluma* in order to give 'taxonomic stability to the name *Callopiastes palluma* (Molina, 1782) and also the name [sic] *Phymaturus flagellifer* (Bell, 1843) = *Phymaturus palluma* [of authors other than Molina, 1782]'

8. In our opinion, none of the actions by Cei & Lescure (1985), Lescure & Cei (1991) or Veloso et al. (2000, p. 258) best serves nomenclatural stability. The lizard taxon mistakenly called *Phymaturus palluma* (Molina, 1782) by Gravenhorst in 1837 is of great scientific interest because of its herbivorous diet, viviparous reproduction, saxicolous habits, possession of sex chromosomes and occurrence at high elevations. As a result, it has appeared in numerous publications but under the incorrect name of *P. palluma* (Molina, 1782). Recent examples of usage of this name are de Queiroz, 1982; Arnold, 1984; Bee de Speroni, Cabrera & Manca, 1984; Lamborot & Navarro-Suarez, 1984; Shine, 1985; Etheridge & de Queiroz, 1988; Hallermann, 1994; Etheridge, 1995; Grimalt et al., 1995; McGuire, 1996; Reeder & Wiens, 1996; Schulte et al., 1998; Schulte et al., 1999 and Etheridge & Espinoza, 2000.

9. We propose that the Commission designate the holotype of *Centrura flagellifer* Bell, 1843 (see para. 3 above) as the neotype of *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782 to conserve the existing and widespread usage of the generic name *Phymaturus* Gravenhorst, 1837 and the specific name of *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782. Following this, *Centrura* and *C. flagellifer* Bell, 1844 will be junior objective synonyms of *Phymaturus* and *P. palluma* respectively, and the valid name for the lizard described by Molina will be *Callopiastes maculatus* Gravenhorst, 1837 (see para. 4 above).

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to set aside all previous type fixations for the nominal species *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782 and to designate the specimen BMNH 1946.8.29.84, referred to in para. 3 above, as the neotype;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Phymaturus* Gravenhorst, 1837 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782;

- (b) *Callopiastes* Gravenhorst, 1837 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Callopiastes maculatus* Gravenhorst, 1838;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) *palluma* Molina, 1782, as published in the binomen *Lucerta* (sic) *palluma* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above (specific name of the type species of *Phymaturus* Gravenhorst, 1837);
- (b) *maculatus* Gravenhorst, 1837, as published in the binomen *Callopiastes maculatus* (specific name of the type species of *Callopiastes* Gravenhorst, 1837).

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Phymaturus palluma (Molina, 1782) from Sierra de Uspallata, Mendoza Province, Argentina.